(a) whether Government are aware that there is an agitation going on for and against Konkan Railway re-alignment;

(b) what is the reaction of Government; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to solve the Kokan Railway issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A One-man High Level Committee consisting of Justice G. J. Oza, retired judge of Supreme Court of India has been appointed to look into the various issues relating to alignment of Konkan Railway line passing through Goa (Mayem-Bali) for a final decision.

lender for Manufacture by N.E. Railway Administration

1260. SHRI BRAHMADEO ANAND PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be oleased to state:

(a) whether the N.E. Railway Administration has awarded the tender for manufacture, stocking, supply and loading of hand broken stone, from Railway quarry at Jamalpur to the highest bidder, black listed parties;

(b) whether there was another lowest bidder belonging to scheduled caste whose case was ignored;

(c) what were the claims of lower bidders;

(d) whether the policy of the Railway for giving preference to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes has been dispensed with; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF); (a) No such tenders were awarded to the highest bidder and blacklisted parties.

(b) The lowest tender was ignored due to unsatisfactory past performance and inadequate credentials.

(c) There were no claims.

(d) and (e) As per Railway Policy tenders are, decided only on merits of each case and not on the basis of religion, caste and creed.

***Amount* Spent on Advertisement by Railways**

1261. SHRI MOHAMMAD AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of RAIL WAYS be pleased to state what are the details of the amount spent by Railways on advertisement during the period from 1st April, 1992 to 31st March, 1993, language and zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Re-alignment of route of Konkan Railway' in Goa

1262. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of RAIL WAYS be pleased to state :

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(a) whether it is a fact that due to a dispute for the re-alignment of route for 34 km of the 105 km route in Goa, the on-going work in the disputed sector has been suspended;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to end this dispute so that the work in that sector could start to end delay;

(c) whether final alignment of route in Goa has been dicided upon, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any financial difficulty for completion of this disputed sector of the route; if so, the measures taken to tackle it; and

(e) whether any step would be taken to ensure that the entire Konkan Railway Project will be completed by the stipulated date viz., October 1994 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A one-man High Level Committee consisting of Justice G. J. Oza, retired Judge of Supreme Court of India has been appointed to look into the various issues relating to alignment of Konkan Railway line passing through Goa. The alignment will be decided after the report of this Committee is received.

(d) There has been no special financial difficulty for the disputed sector. However, KRC has been facing shortage of funds mainly on account of the poor market conditions for tax-free bonds. With a view to providing more funds to the KRC, it has been decided to raise the equity base from Rs. 400 crores to Rs. 600 crores.

Ministry of Finance has also since authorised KRC to float their bonds themselves and the Corporation- is shortly going to the market for sale of their Bonds.

(e) Owing to shortage of funds and the temporary stoppage of works in this sector, the project is likely to slip by 6 months to a year.

Quota for Rail Bookings on The Recommendation of MPs.

1263. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to consider to reintrodue the quota system for the bookings made in the Parliament House which was existing earlier against the recommendation of the Members of Parliament:

(b) the reasons due to which the above facilities were discontinued; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the quota allotted for the Parliament House has now been taken over by the Railway Headquarters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir

(b) The Sleeper Class quota in Parliament House Booking Office was allotted to provide accommodation to the companions of the Members of Parliament who were entitled to travel in second class. Since the companions of the Members of Parliament are now entitled to travel in Firsl/AC Sleeper Class alongwith Members of Parliament, there is no need for this quota in Parliament House Booking Office.

(c) No, Sir.

अजमेर से खंडवा तक की मीटर लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलना

1264. श्री राजा किशन मालवीय : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पश्चिम रेलवे के अधीन अजमेर से खंडवा तक की मीटर लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह कार्य कब तक शुरू होगा; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इतनी महत्वपूर्ण लाइन की ऐसी अनदेखी करने के क्या कारण है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० सी० लेंका) : (क) से (ग) रेलों ने छोटी लाइनों/मीटर लाइनों को बड़ी लाइनों में बदलने के लिए एक कार्य योजना शुरू की है । संसाधनों की सीमित उपलब्धता के कारण यह कार्य चरणबद्ध आधार पर किया जा रहा है । चित्तौड़गढ़-नीमच लाइन का आमान परिवर्तन पहले ही किया जा चुका है । नीमच-रतलाम का कार्य प्रगति पर है । रतलाम-खंडवा को कार्य योजना में शामिल कर लिया गया है और संसाधनों की उपलब्धता के अनुसार इसे आगामी वर्षों में शुरू किया जाएगा । चित्तौड़गढ़-अजमेर की प्राथमिकता का निर्धारण करने के लिए यथोचित सर्वेक्षण शुरू किया गया है ।-

Resuming Taj Express from New Delhi Railway Station to Agra

1265. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to resume Taj Express form New Delhi Railway Station to Agra;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Non-availability of spare terminal/ maintenance facilities at New Delhi Railway Station.

Issuing Season ticket from New Delhi to various stations

1266. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of monthly season tickets issued from New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin every month for Feridabad, Kosi Kalan, Mathura and Agra during the last one year, and

(b) the number of seats available in various .trains from New Delhi Railway to Faridabad, Kosi Kalan, Mathura and Agra for season ticket holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA); (a) Number of Monthly Season Ticket issued from New Delhi & Hazrat Nizamuddin for Feridabad, Kosi Kalan, Mathura and Agra during 1992-93:—